

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the August 28, 2001 Office Action, claims 1, 6, 11, 19 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Asano, US Patent 4,739,465.

Independent claim 1 expressly recites a power supply controller circuit that includes a current input circuit coupled to receive a current representative of an input voltage. The current input circuit is to generate an enable/disable signal when the current crosses a threshold having a hysteresis of greater than or equal to zero. The power supply controller is expressly claimed "to *activate and deactivate* the power supply in response to the enable/disable signal." Accordingly, the presently claimed invention expressly recites that the power supply is both activated and *deactivated* in response to the expressly claimed enable/disable signal.

Asano is directed to an inverter controller. As shown for example in Figure 1 of Asano, an inverter 1 is constituted by series-connecting an anti-parallel circuit of a transistor 9 and a diode 11 and another anti-parallel circuit of a transistor 10 and a diode 12. These anti-parallel circuits are respectively connected to the positive side of a DC power supply 15 and the negative side of a DC power supply 16. One end of a load 13 is connected to the node of the series connection between transistors 9 and 10, which defines the output terminal of inverter 1. The other end of the load 13 is grounded through a current detector 14. The output of current detector 14 is supplied to a current control amplifier 18 for calculating an ON/OFF signal. (*See, e.g.*, Asano, col. 1, lines 31-40).

Asano fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest a power supply that is both activated and deactivated in response to an enable/disable signal when a current responsive to an input voltage crosses a threshold having a hysteresis of greater than or

equal to zero, as expressly recited in the presently claimed invention. In particular, assuming for the sake of discussion that Asano's inverter 1 is a "power supply controller," Asano fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest activating and deactivating a power supply in response to an enable/disable signal as expressly recited in the presently claimed invention. Moreover, Asano *teaches away* from deactivating a power supply as Asano states in column 4, lines 50-57:

As described above, according to the present invention, the supply of the ON signal to a switching element which need not operate is compulsorily inhibited by an inhibiting circuit on the basis of an output current command value. *Therefore, it becomes unnecessary to provide any dead time during the commutation of the inverter, so that accuracy and response in the current control are improved.*

(Emphasis added). Thus, since Asano teaches away from any dead time being provided during the commutation of the inverter, Asano's inverter teaches away from activating and especially deactivating a power supply in response to an enable/disable signal.

Accordingly, since Asano fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest at least one expressly recited claim element, and moreover *teaches away* from the presently claimed invention, the Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention as expressly recited is not anticipated by Asano.

Independent claims 6, 11 and 19 distinguish for the same reasons as claim 1. Claim 24 is a dependent claim and distinguishes for at least the same reasons as its independent base claim in addition to adding further limitations of its own. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the instant section 102 rejection be withdrawn.

*35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections*

In the August 28, 2001 Office Action, claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano in view of Farr, US Patent 5,784,232.

As summarized above, example independent claim 1 expressly recites that a power supply controller is to activate and deactivate a power supply in response to the enable/disable signal when a current representative of an input voltage crosses a threshold having a hysteresis of greater than or equal to zero. As also summarized above, Asano fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest, and moreover, teaches away from the presently claimed invention.

Farr is directed to the control and protection of a compressor motor, which includes an inductively activated contactor for controlling the flow of current to the compressor motor. Assuming for the sake of discussion that Farr's circuit is a "power supply controller," Farr also fails to disclose, teach or fairly suggest a power supply is activated and deactivated in response to an enable/disable signal when a current representative of an input voltage crosses a threshold having a hysteresis of greater than or equal to zero.

Therefore, neither Asano nor Farr, whether taken singularly or in combination, disclose, teach or fairly suggest at least one expressly recited element of the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, the presently claimed invention would not have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art in view of Asano and Farr. Claims 2, 5, 7, 10, 20 and 23 are dependent claims and therefore distinguish for at least the same reasons as their independent base claims in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request that the instant section 103 rejections be

withdrawn. The Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

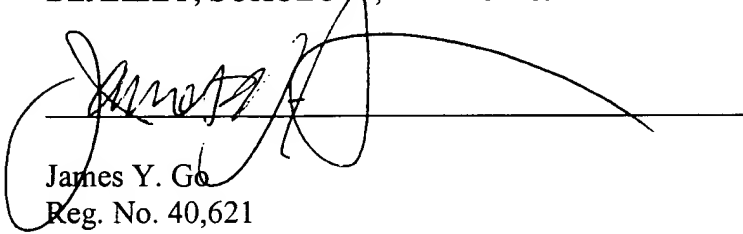
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Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 11-26-01

  
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